Supply of Gas to Essar Steel

1046. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has offered Gas to Essar Steel on subsidised rate for productive use in Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the logic behind this business decision; and

(c) whether Government proposes to offer any compensation package to SAIL plants which lost its competitive edges to Essar because of this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Exploration of Oil in Tamil Nadu

1047. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the quantity of crude oil explored from oil fields, on shore and off shore from Tamil Nadu during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): The initial inplace reserves of oil established in onland Tamil Nadu during the last three years are as follows:—

Year	Reserves (Million Metric Tonnes)
1998-1999	1.59
1999-2000	0.45
2000-2001	1.53

In areas offshore Tamil Nadu, exploration efforts did not yield any initial inplace reserves of oil during the last three years.